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A PLAIN
Record or Declaration,
 SHEWING
 The Original **ROOT** and **RACE**
 OF
PERSECUTORS;

Together

With the **Nature**, **Practice** and **End** of that **GENERATION**, in all *Ages* past since the *Beginning*; as we may Read in the Scriptures of Truth, from *Genesis* to the *Revelation*.

But more Particularly thus :

The **Devil** (who was a *Murderer* and a *Liar* from the *Beginning*, and the *Original* of all *Sin*) is the *Father* of all **Persecutors** and **Persecution**, which is the *Birth* born after the *Flesh*, which the *Egyptian Woman* (the *Bond Woman*) is the *Mother* of, who is cast out with her Son from being *Heir*, whose *End* is *Destruction*.

CHRIST JESUS, the *Truth*, the *Peace*, the *Power* of God (which *destroys* the *Devil*, the *Original* of all *Sin* and *Unrighteousness*) He is the *Original* and *Everlasting Father* of all the *Righteous*, which is the *Birth* born after the *Spirit* : whose *Mother* is *Jerusalem* from *Above*, which is *Free* with her *Children*, who are the *Righteous* (which are *Persecuted*) who will not *persecute* nor *hate* but *love Enemies*. Now these are *Abel's Generation*, who was a *Righteous* man, whose *Sacrifice* was *accepted* of God : him *Cain* slew, who was *wicked*.

And so all *Haters*, *Murderers*, *Persecutors* about Religion, *Worship* and *Sacrifice*, from the *Beginning* even until this day, they are of *Cain's Generation* (the **PERSECUTOR**) whose *Sacrifices* God hath no *respect* unto, *their hands* are *full of Blood*; though they *Profess* all the *Scriptures* of *Truth*, they are *Persecutors* of the *Just*; and so their *Reward* will be according to their *Work*.

H. E. K.

Gal. 4. He that is born after the *Flesh*, *Persecutes* him that is born after the *Spirit*.

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A Plain
RECORD of **DECLARATION**
 Shewing
 The Original **ROOT** and **RACE**
 Of
PERSECUTORS;
 Together

With the Nature, Practice and End of that **GENE-
 RATION**, &c.

NEver did any *Prosper* who were *Persecutors* of the *Righteous*; For when the *Devil* went out of the *Truth*, then did he *snare* and *tempt* others out of the *Truth*, and their *Habitation*: And being so, the *State* was *Lost*, which was in the *Beginning*, wherein all things ² *Per-* were *Blessed* and *Good*. And the *Devil*, the *Original* of all *Sin*, ^{2.} *4.* is the *Father* of *Persecutors* and *Persecution*, who is out of the *Truth* in the whole *World* (which was always *Blind*) that *lies* in *Wickedness*, from which *Foundation* of the *World* hath the *Lamb* been *slain*, the *Just* have *Suffered* and been *Persecuted*, by them that have obeyed the *Devil*, the *Author* and *Original* of all *Sin*; Who hath entered into their *Minds*, and defiled their *Minds*, so that they have *disobeyed* the *Good* in them, the *Just* in them; which is the *Cause* of all the *Persecution* in *Christendom*, and all the *Persecution* & *Ignorance* in the whole *World*. And People *disobeying* the *Good* that is in them, and the *Just*; and *obeying* the *Bad* in them, they are *Aliens* in their *minds* and *Strangers* to the *Life* of *God*, and *Covenant* of *Promise*, and *Strangers* to the *Image* and *Likeness* of *GOD*, the *Image* of the *Devil* being *within* them, and yet *undefaced*, and *unsubdued*. This is the *Cause* of the *Enmity* in the whole *World*, and the *Cause* of the *Enmity* in them that do *profess* the *Scriptures* (both *Jews* and *Christians*) being *Aliens* from the *Life* which they were in,

in, which spake them forth, in which there is no *Unity*, and *Subjection* unto God, and to one Another. So the Devil was the *First Persecutor*, the *Enemy* of Mankind, who is the *Power of Death*, the *Author* of Sin, which brings it forth; which *Christ* the *Truth*, and *Prince of Life* Destroys; for he *Ends* all *Persecution*.

Gen. 4. Cain the *Second Persecutor*, who *Persecuted* righteous *Abel*, though he was a *Governour* and built a *City*, God said, he was a *Vagabond* and *Fugitive*, and his *Brother's Blood* stopped the *Earth* from *yeelding* its full *fraygh*. So that a *Persecution* *Corrupteth* the *Earth*, and all that be *Persecutors* are of *Cain*, *Vagabonds*, to whom belongs the *Woe*; though they be never so *Great* in the *Earth*, the *Woe* is to them if they be *Persecutors*.

Gen. 6.
2. Pet.
2. 5.

The *Old World* *Persecuted* *Noah*, righteous *Noah*, with whom was God's *Covenant*, who was a *Preacher of Righteousness*; And God overthrew the *Old World* for their *Filthiness*, and *Wickedness*, and *Ungodliness*, who grieved him, (and had *Corrupted* the *Earth*, and filled it with *Violence*) who were *Drowned*; and righteous *Noah* in the *Ark* was *Saved* with *Eight Persons*: So there was the *End* of those *Persecutors*.

The *Sodomites* were struck *Blind* by the *Angel* of the *Lord*, who assaulted *Lot's House* in *Sodom*, and afterwards the *Lord* consumed their *City* with *fire*.

The *Caldeans* were *Persecutors* of Faithful *Abraham*, from among whom God brought him; who denied his *Acquaintance*, *Relations*, and *Friends*, and *Nation*, and *Country*, *Worship* and *Fathers House*, and went into a *strange Land* to *Dwell*; And afterwards *Abraham's Seed* were *Strangers* in the *Land* of *Egypt*, who by the *Egyptians* were four hundred years *Afflicted* and *Persecuted*, but the *Lord* did *Overthrow* the *Egyptians* in the *Red Sea*, and so *Destroyed* those *Persecutors*.

Esau the Son of *Hagar*, the *Bond-woman*, did *Mock* and *Persecute* *Isaac*, the Son of *Sarah* the *Free-woman*, who was cast out of *Abraham's Family*, that he should not *Inherit* with the *Righteous*, because he was a *Persecutor*.

Esaú was a *Persecutor* of *Isaac* who fled from his Face; and

and he despised his Birth-right, for a messe of Pottage, and morsel of Bread. And Esau the Persecutor, because he hated his Brother, therefore the Lord said, *I have hated Esau, and laid his mountain desolate* (and Jacob have I loved, who was blessed of God) and there is an End of that Persecutor.

Abel and Cain were two old Hereticks, the one Persecuted Abel; and the other was called the Mighty Hunter before the Lord, who did begin to build Babel, which God confounded; and declared Cain to be a Vagabond; So a Persecutor is a Vagabond and a Fugitive.

Joseph's Brethren Persecuted him, and Sold him into Egypt; and Potiphar's Wife slandered righteous Joseph, yet nevertheless the Lord made him to prosper, and cleared his Innocency. Joseph's Brethren were made to Bow in the day of their Poverty to their Brother, whom they had Sold and Persecuted.

Pharaoh the King, that Old Persecutor, because he would not let the Children of Israel go, that they might Worship God the Lord Destroyed him.

And the Egyptians Persecuted the Children of Israel, though to them Joseph had been a blessing, and they killed their Children, and Oppressed them by sore Labour and Taxes; therefore the Lord overthrew those Persecutors, and drowned them in the Sea; and delivered His Persecuted and Oppressed People, by a mighty hand and outstretched arm; So that there was an end of those Oppressors and Persecutors.

And the Children of Israel Persecuted Moses, and were ready to stone him in the Wilderness, and Rebelled against him, and neither regarded his word, nor the Lord, wherefore the Lord said, *they should not enter into his rest*; Whose carcasses felt in the Wilderness, and perished as Pharaoh did in the Sea with his Host; who regarded not the word of the Lord, nor of Moses, that bid him get him out of his sight. And so there was the end of those Persecutors.

Samson was betrayed by his Dalilah and Persecuted by the Philistines, but the Lord brought an end to his Persecutors. Therefore beware all ye that Trust not in the Living God, lest you lose your Strength, and be betrayed by your Dalilahs.

hith

Balaam

Numb.
24.

Balaam was a Persecutor, who loved the Wages of Unrighteousness, a Deceiver and a Dissentier, in whose way many go; But mark their ways and his, (that go against the righteous Seed,) the End was destruction, who went against the righteous Seed, and Life; and there was the End of that Persecutor.

Saul Persecuted **David** when the evil Spirit came upon him, and the Spirit of the Lord departed from him, and persecuted him up and down, and hunted him like a Partridge and a Fly, but the Lord overthrew that Persecutor.

Absalom Persecuted his Father **David**, and fought after his Life, to get the Kingdom to himself; and **Ahithophel** was his Counsellor, whose Counsel God confounded and brought to nought, and the Lord overthrew both him and **Absalom**; and so they fell into the Pit which they had digged, and there was the End of those Persecutors, 2 Sam. 17, 18. Chapter.

Shimei one of **Saul's** Family, was a Persecutor, who cursed **King David**, and stung stones at him, and cried out, Come now thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial, &c. 2 Sam. 16. 6, 7. Now though **David** did pardon **Shimei**, that he did not take away his Life; yet mark what came after, **Solomon** his Son caused him to be slain. See 1 King. 2. 46. and there was an End of that Persecutor.

Both the King, and his Counsellors were Persecutors, as ye may read (2 Chron. 24.) what became of them, and what was their End that persecuted the Prophets of the Lord, and slew **Zachariah** a Prophet of God (whom the King commanded to be stoned to death in the Court of the House of the Lord) who in love warned them for their souls eternal good; but to reproach they turned it, and made a mock of the Prophets; and slighted the Messengers of God; and accounted of the Spiritual men as Mad-men, and called the Prophets Fools. But the spiritest of them is as sharp as a Thorn-hedge, and the best of them as a Bryar: Among whom many of the Prophets trembled, shook and quaked in sackcloth and Ashes, and shewed several Signs; and if they came flying, or if they came with Repentance to them, they did not regard: Therefore the Lord left them over to their own hearts lusts, to perish in their gain-sayings, as **Corah**, **Dathan** and **Abiram** did,

Mich.
7. 4.

did, whom the Earth opened, and swallowed up quick,
Numb. 13.

Therefore consider all ye *Persecutors* upon the Earth, and remember your Examples that be gone before; read the Scriptures of Truth, and see in whose paths and steps ye walk: for they who love Enemies (as Christ commanded) and keep brotherly love and fellowship, and esteem well of all men, they can hurt no creature upon the Earth. The Righteous hath alwayes suffered (in the whole world) and hath been persecuted unto death, upon the account that they have been the *Tares*, the *false Prophets*, and the *Deceivers*: for which doing Christ gave them no Example, nor any Command for all the Persecution that hath been since the dayes of the Apostles. Though in the Law they were not to spare their nearest Relations, Wife, Brother or Sister, that drew them from the Law of God, and went to set up another god; if he were a Blasphemer and false Prophet, they were not to be spared, but to be put to death by the Law of God: Which Law of God (Christ being put to death) ended; and he saith, *Love Enemies*. For the *Jews* said (who persecuted Christ) they had a Law, by which, if any man said he was the Son of God, was to dye, and to be put to death: Therefore the People might say, as they say now, They were but subject to the higher Powers. But mark the end of those Blasphemers that persecuted the Son of God to death, the Prince of Life.

And mark the end of those *Persecutors* that persecute Christ where he is manifested in his Members; that visited not them in Prison, and came not to them when they were sick, and clothed them, not and fed them not: Such he saith must go into everlasting punishment; much more them that cast into Prison shall receive the Reward of *Persecutors*. The Children of *Israel* were persecuted by the Heathen, who stoned and overcame him (Gal. 3.) and would have had them all put to death, and *Mordcai* hanged; because he feared God, and would not bow to proud *Haman*. So the same thing that should have been done unto *Mordcai*, befall *Haman*, and so there was an end of that *Persecutor*.

Thus the King persecuted *Micajah* the Prophet; and commanded that he should be cast into Prison, and fed with Bread and *Warr*, till he returned from the *Battel* at *Ramoth-Gilead*, because he could not *flatter* him, and *spoke* well of him, as the false Prophets; and *Enphases* of *Baal* did; So *that* the King was slain in the *Battel*; and did not *regaine* Peace; according to *Micajah's* words. And there was an End of that Persecution.

1 King.
22.

Jeroboam the King, (his hand withered which he put forth against the Man of God, who cried against the *Athazin* *Belset*, and their idolatry thore: See 1 King, 13.)

Itthab and *Dannah* the Sons of *Ammon*, did Persecute and *Slew* *Masiah* the Son of *Saul*; (a righteous person) in his own house upon his Bed, and cut off his Head, and brought it to King *David*, and looked for a Reward: (for his chief Murder: *Masiah* being to *David*, they had killed his Enemy, and *carried* him upon *Saul's* bed: his seed.) But *David* commended his young men, and they slew them, both *Rechab* and *Binnah*, and cut

2 Sam. 24

off their heads: and that was their Reward for their Persecuting and *Killing* a Righteous Person.

Job the Prince persecuted him, and reviled him: and sed the end of them, that *Job* was constrained to offer Sacrifice for them, and make intercession to God for them, See *Job* 42. And though People read in the Scriptures daily, yet they do not consider, *that* to commit sin, *that* is to do evil, *that* is to do

Psa. 119.

10.

22.

(The *Prince* persecuted *David* (who was of the Royal Seed) of whom *David* said; *Do* *that* *Children* *become* *Engendred* *and* *so* *the* *were* *according* *to* *his* *Prophecy* *(and* *again* *this* *day)* *and* *their* *Eyes* *blinded*, *and* *they* *bow* *down* *their* *backs* *away*.) So be all the *Pharisees* and *Black* *herds*, whose eyes are blinded, *that* *bow* *down*, *that* *be* *on* *the* *Left* *and* *Power*, which the *Four* *men* *out* *of* *the* *Cloud* *And* *blow* *all* *the* *Christians* (so called) and all People *unbelieving* *whose* *eyes* *are* *blinded*, *and* *they* *walk* *from* *the* *Light* *that* *is* *in* *themselves*. These be in the *Dark*, the *Malignant* *and* *Evil*, *that* *went* *forth* *of* *the* *Evil* *and* *so* *go* *from* *the* *Principle* *of* *Life* *and* *Dominion*. These are the *Wicked* *and* *the* *Persecutors*; though they be *many* *in* *the* *Earth*,

Earth,

Earth, Great Kings, Princes, or Emperors, yet have not a habitation in God.

A Persecutor, his eye is blinded, his ear is stopped to the Spirit of God in himself; he wanders from the habitation in God: So a Wagabond, he will contemne the Earth, and stain the Earth, and fill it with Violence. A Fugitive that spoils the Blood of the Innocent, he causeth the Earth not to yeeld her strength. So here is the Author of Poverty and Beggars, by whom the Just and Innocent always suffer, against whom is Gods War, and there is the end of all Persecution. *Isaiah* and *Job* were both Persecutors of the Prophet of the Lord, and Killers of them; who painted her face, and thought to have been received and esteemed by her Painting: but shee the end of all Persecution, whose Blood the Dogs licked; in whose dayes the Prophet wandered up and down in Sheepskins and Goat-skins, and were in Caves and dens of the Earth, and were fed in them. And *Elisha* the Prophet in those dayes was fed by the Ravens. Therefore consider ye that delight in Persecution, Do not devise evil on your Beds, neither nor your Belvas in your own eyes, lest your Iniquities do become to teathsome and to hartfull, that you come to no change; for Shame will bring forth Confusion and a fountain of Eyes. Plot not against the Just, nor gnash not your teeth against them: Cease from Anger and Wrath; be patient, and fret not against the Innocent, and the Righteous.

Do you not reade of the Great Persecution, in the second Psalm, *The Kings of the Heathen*, who imagined vain things. The Kings of the Earth took Counsel together with the Rulers, against the Lord, and against his Anointed. Will not the Lord vex them in his Wrath, and sore Displeasure; and laugh them to scorn because of their folly and madness; and set his King upon his holy Hill? and to frustrate the ends all of the Persecutors. *Isaiah* was persecuted by the Kings of the Earth, and the Lord comforted them to be comforted, and to put out their King's Image.

Eyes, and to destroy his Sons; who in the day of their Prosperity in their life-time hearkened to their Priests, false Prophets, and Teachers, that smoothed them up, and cryed Peace to them in their Iniquities, and would not regard the Prophets of the Lord, but *persecuted* them; and there was the end of those *Persecutors*.

And the Children of *Israel*, their Princes and Priests persecuted *Isaiah* the Prophet, and the Children that were with him, were for Signs and for Wonders to both the Houses of *Israel* before their Captivity: yet they would not regard neither Signs, nor Wonders, nor Prophets, who afterwards were carried away Captive: and there was the end of those *Persecutors*.

Isaias the Son of *Amur* the Priest (who was also chief Governor of the House of the Lord) did smite *Jeremiah*, and put him in the Stocks; Therefore did the Lord tell him by the Prophet *Jeremiah*, that his name should not be *Pashur*, but the Lord had called him *Magor-missabib*; For the Lord would make him a Terror to himself and all his Friends; and they should fall by the Sword of their Enemies; and that he should be carried captive to *Babylon*, and dye there: and that was the end of that Persecution. And again, when *Jeremiah* had spoken the words, which the Lord had commanded him to speak to the Children of *Israel*, Then the Priests and the Prophets, and all the People took him, saying, *Thou shalt surely dye*; because he prophesied in the Name of the Lord, and told them of the Destruction of the Temple. See *Jerem. chap. 26*.

In the Children of *Israel*'s Captivity there had been Persecutors of the Prophets: *Ezekiel* told them, their *Shepherds*, *Ezek. 10*. Teachers and Prophets had caused them to erre, and had made havock of the People, and sold them for handfuls of Barley, and pieces of Bread; and eaten the Fat, and cloathed themselves with the Wool: the Lord would redeem them from their mouths, whom he saith, are like Foxes in the Desert; which worry and devour the Lambs, and they were made a prey upon who departed from Iniquity. So let them see (who regard not the Lord nor his Prophets) the fruits of their Persecution.

Daniel

Daniel in the Captivity of the Children of Israel, let them see their Sins and their Transgressions, who regarded neither the Lord nor his Prophets. And Daniel was Persecuted for praying to God; and cast into the Lyons Den. Mark, did not God bring his Persecutors into the Den of Lyons, who tore them to pieces, and Daniel was Delivered? Dan. 3.

And the Three Children were Persecuted for not Worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's golden Image, and were cast into the fiery Furnace, whom God delivered, and made their very Persecutors to confesse that they were the Servants of the most high God; and those who cast them into the fiery Furnace were slain; which was a Testimony against their Cruelty and Persecution.

Amos the Herdsman, who was a Prophet of the Lord, was Persecuted at the Kings Chappel, who told them the Songs of their Temple should be turned into Howling. And they said that Amos had conspired against the King, and bid him get him into the Land of Judah and Prophesie. And Amos told them of Vials and Instruments of Musick, and of their drinking Wine in Bowls, and how they stretched themselves upon costly Beds, and of the Seat of Violence, and how they swallowed up the Needy, and caused the Poor to fall, and that they did not remember the Afflictions of Joseph, Amos 6, 7, 8. Chapters. But mark what the Lord saith of them: Are ye not as the Children of the Ethiopians unto me O Israel, saith the Lord; and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil and not for good, &c.

Heathen Prophesied in the Captivity, and let them see how their Judges, their Princes, Heads and Rulers of Israel, who hate the Good, and love the Evil: who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from their bones; who also eat the flesh of my People, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones and chop them in pieces, as for the Pot, and as flesh for the Caldron. And Thus saith the Lord concerning the Prophets that make the People to erre; who bite with their teeth; and cry peace, and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him. Therefore the Lord told the Priests and Prophets, That they should not have a Vision, and that they should not Divine, and the Sun should go down over the Prophets, and the Day should be dark over them. And their Seers should be ashamed, and their Di-

vipers confounded, and Sion for their sakes should be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem laid on heaps; And this was their reward from the Lord for their wickedness & Persecution, who desired for money, and sought for hire, and judged for gifts & rewards; they had no Answer from God; and this was the fruit of their Persecution and Persecutors, Famine and Blindness; Whom the Prophets had foretold how they had served God with their lips, but their hearts were removed far from him: And how they would Sacrifice, and Offer, and cry the Temple of the Lord, and yet live in their Abominations: Which Offerings and Sacrifices God had no respect to more than Cain's, whose hands were full of blood: And told them, their Oblations, and Sacrifices were no more to him, than to blasse an Idol, and he that Offered a Sacrifice as he that cut off a Dog's neck, or slew a man; For they were Persecutors.

Nahum, Joel, Haggi, Zachary, Let the Children of Israel, (the Jews) see their Transgressions; And see how the Judgement of the Lord came upon them for their Transgressions and Persecution.

The Edomites who were the Children of Esau were Persecutors of Jacob and his seed, as ye may read in the Prophecy of Obadiah, where the Lord saith to Edom, The priests of thine altar shall receive shame, when thou shalt smeltest in the cliffs of the Rocks, whose habitation is high, that shall say in thy heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? How are the things of Esau searched out? how are his hidden things brought to light? I the mighty arm of the Lord shall be dismayed, so that thou shalt every one of thine Esau may be cut off by slaughter. For thy Violence against thy brother Jacob shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. Shall not I in that day destroy the wise men out of Edom, and the understanding out of thine Esau? Because thou stoodst on the other side in the day that the Strangers carried away Israel Captives, and Foreigners entered into her gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem: even thou wast as one of them. But thou shouldst not have looked on thy Brother in that day when he became a stranger, neither shouldst thou have rejoiced over the Children of Judah, in the day of their destruction, neither shouldst thou have despised them in the day of their distress, nor shouldst thou have entered into their gates, nor looked on their affliction.

tion, in the day of their Calamity, nor have laid hands on their Sub-
 stance in the day of their Calamity, nor shouldst thou have stood in
 the cross way, to cut off those of his that did escape, nor delivered
 himself to be slain. Therefore as thou hast done, it shall be done
 unto thee, thy reward shall return upon thine own head, and thou
 shalt be as though thou hadst not been. So there was an End of
 Edom the Persecutor.

Herod Persecuted John Baptist to death, and caused his head
 to be cut off: He being Voluptuous, and delighted in his
 Daughters Dancing, gave her in stead of the one half of his
 Kingdom, the Head of the Just John Baptist. But mark the End
 of that Persecutor: Was he not eaten to death with Worms?
 And mark what became of him that Persecuted, and pro-
 ceeded against James, and killed him with a Sword, and Perse- Act. 12.
 cuted Peter, and Persecuted and Killed the Innocent Children at
 Bethlehem, in madness when they could not find the Child
 Jesus, who fled from the Persecuting Tyrant into Egypt. And
 the Pharisees told Christ that he should go from thence, for Luk. 13.
 Jesus would tell him: Who answered and said, Go, tell that
 Seditious Rabble of Scribes and Doctors, and will be at full, to day and to mor-
 row, and on the third day I shall be perfected. And he took up a La-
 mentation upon Jerusalem, and said, Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
 which killest the Prophets and stonest them that were sent to thee,
 how often would I have gathered thy Children, as a Hen doth her
 Chickens, and would not: Therefore is your House left unto you
 desolate, &c. There was the reward of their Persecution.

The Jews Persecuted Christ, who came of them accord-
 ing to the flesh, and mocked, and scoffed at Him, and despised
 Him, and blasphemed and said, He hath a devil, and buffeted him,
 and spewed Him with a reed, and spit in His face, and Crowned
 Him with thorns; among whom as His Birth He had no place
 but in the Manger, in the Stable. But mark the end of these
 Persecutors, Priests, Professors and Rulers. Did not the Lord
 bring the Babylon upon them according to Christs Prophecy,
 and destroyed their City and Temple, and scattered them over all
 Nations; and many of them were carried Captives into Egypt.
 There is the End of all Persecuting Professors in the Mouth
 and Sypp without Life and Power.

Paul

Paul was a Persecutor, and a peelder to Persecution, (when Steven was stoned, the Witnesses layd down their Cloaths at Sauls feet) to whom the Lord shewed Mercy: which in most of his Epistles he confesseth, and his Unworthinesse, that he should find Mercy, seeing he Persecuted.

O ye Persecutors, consider therefore, and remember what a great Thing it is to find Mercy, as Paul did, who Confessed it to his very last, as you may Read in his Epistle to Timothy.

The Jews Persecuted Steven to death, who was full of the holy Ghost: But the Jews who resisted it (as their forefathers did) they Professed the Words given forth by the holy Ghost, but mind their End: Were they not destroyed when Jerusalem was compassed about with Armies, and was layd on heaps, and not one stone of the Temple left upon another that should not be thrown down?

Christ said, that His Disciples should be Persecuted from City to City, and scourged, and halloed out of the Synagogues, and carried before Rulers, and cast into Prison for His Name sake; which was fulfilled upon them according to Christ's words. And he said, a day of Vengeance should come, and told them they had Persecuted Zacharias, and Killed him between the Temple and the Altar, and that the Temple should be thrown down.

And the true Christians in the Primitive times were no Persecutors, but Lovers of Enemies, and tender of all Men; this was their Doctrine and Practice; which is beyond Jews, and Heathens; and Hypocritical Christians; that are Apostatized both from the Life, Doctrine, and Practice of Christ and the Apostles in the Primitive times.

And the Council shrewed James and John, and Barabbas, and Commanded them not to speak any more in the Name of Jesus. Act. 5. 40

John gave forth the Revelations, and was Persecuted, and Banished, and he Prophesied of the Beast, the false Prophet, the Dragon, and the false Church should Persecute, Kill and Destroy, and drink the Blood of the Saints; and Marrye, and mixe Wine with the Remaine of the Seed of their women; And shew the Beast's Worship, the Dragons false Church, wherein all Nations should

should drink her Cup, and so go on, until their sins should reach to Heaven; and come into remembrance before God. And that God would in the end plague the Whore, and burn her flesh with fire; and take the Beast and false Prophet, the old Dragon, and cast them alive into the Lake of Fire that burns with Brimstone: and all that drink of the Whores Cup, and worship the Beast, shall be tormented, and drink the Cup of the Indignation of the Lord God Almighty: And here is the end of those wicked Persecutors.

Thus the Persecutor, who betrayed his Master, and kissed him, and sold him to the Priests (for Thirty Pieces of Silver) who thirsted after his Blood, the Blood of the Innocent: But mark his end, with his Company, with their Swords and Staves: He hanged himself.

The Jews persecuted Paul up and down from place to place, after he came to receive the Mercy; which many now receive his Words, but persecute his Lofs: And after that he came to exercise his Conscience, to keep it void of offence towards God and towards man; then they did account Paul an Heretic, and a mover of Sedition, and a Pefilent Fellow, and one who turned the World upside down, and was accounted not fit to live upon the Earth; when many of the Jews and Proselytes that feared God, followed Paul and Barnabas, who exhorted them to continue in the Grace of God: But when the rest of the Jews saw the People, they were full of envy, and spake against Paul, and nailed on them. And they stirred up certain devout women, and chief men of the City, and raised Persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their Coasts: But they shook off the Dust of their Feet, as a Witness against these Persecutors. Forty of the Jews bound themselves with an Oath, and conspired together with the Priests and Council, to kill Paul; but were prevented by the Chief Captain. Again, when the Jews saw Paul in the Temple, they moved all the People, and laid hands on him, crying, Men of Israel, help: this is the man that teacheth all men every-where, against the People and the Law, and this Place. Moreover, he hath brought Grecians into the Temple, and hath polluted this holy Place. Then Acts 21, all the City was moved, and the People ran together, and they took 22. chap.

Paul, and drew him out of the Temple to kill him, but was prevented by the chief Captain, who rescued him out of their hands; and they cried against him, Away with such a fellow from the Earth, for it is not meet that he should live. So Paul found more favour from the Romans, who were Heathen, than from his own Nation, who were Jews; and the greatest Professors then in the World. And Ananias the High-Priest, and the Elders, and Tertullus the Orator, accused Paul unto Felix the Governor, and told him, that they had found Paul a pestilent fellow, and a mover of Sedition among all the Jews throughout the World, and a chief maintainer of the Sect of the Nazarenes; and would have polluted the Temple; and afterwards the High-Priests, and the chief of the Jews appeared before Festus against Paul, and would have had him sent him to Jerusalem; and they laid wait by the way to have killed him. But ye may read what was the end of all these bloody Persecutions, who drew nigh unto God with their lips, and with their mouths honoured him, but removed their hearts far off from him. So the hip-servers, will-worshippers will persecute now (as the Jews did of old) But they that worship God in Spirit and in Truth (which the Devil is out of) cannot persecute; for they can love Enemies; and bless those that curse them, and pray for them that persecute them, and do good for evil; So these are the true Christians and followers of Christ.

The Word of the Lord God to you all. Let no one persecute about Church, Worship, Religion, Maintenance, and Ministry; that profess themselves to be Christians: For Christ gives no such Command nor Example; but to love Enemies; for He rebuked his Disciples, who would have had Fire come down from Heaven on them who would not receive them; and were contrary-minded to them (as the Prophet had done.) Therefore Christ, who fulfilled our Law and the Prophets, rebuked their zeal, and told them, *He came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them.*

Therefore ye that are Persecutors and Destroyers of Men's Lives, ye are not in Christ's Mind, Life nor Doctrine; nor the Spiritual men that wrestle with Spiritual weapons: but you are carnal, of which (as I said before) the Devil was the author,

thor, and the beginner of 1. And the Lamb and the Saints, and the Bride and his Wife shall have the Victory; the *First* and the *Last* shall reign, wherein *Alpha* and *Omega* shall be known (over the *Persecutors*) the Beginning and the End; the Lamb of God's Kingdom the First and the Last. So now in these last days the Prophets of the Lord have warned the *Turk*, warned the *Pope*, and warned most of the Kings in Christendom, of their Persecution; whose Field lies like a Field of Blood, who stains the Earth with it, that the Inhabiters of it are Vagabonds, like *Cain* that killed the Righteous; so that the Earth doth not yield her full strength: Therefore are there so many Beggars, desolate people in Poverty among them.

Peter and *John* prophesied, and saw a persecuting *Cain* (that would kill about Religion) was getting up among the Christians before their decease, which would be Preachers or Teachers, who were by the Apostles judged.

John in the *Revelation* saw *Jezebel* that would be a Prophet and a Teacher among the Churches, which *Jezebel* was a *Persecutor* and a drinker of the Blood of the Saints and Prophets; whom *John* rebuked, and such as set her up and followed her. Therefore, O confide! Have not Persecutors been set up by a Law since the Apostles dayes, and the Doctrine of Christ trampled under foot, which teacheth to love Enemies, and overcome evil with good?

And have you not read in *Heb. 11.* how they persecuted the Saints, and spoiled the Saints goods; and how they wandered in Sheep-skins and Goat-skins, of whom the World was not worthy; who lived in Dens and Caves of the Earth. And again he saith, *I saw the Beast and the Kings of the Earth, and their Armies gathered together, to make war against Him that sat upon the white horse, who was clothed with a Vesture dipp in blood* (the Lord Jesus Christ) *whose Name was called The Word of God; not against his Army* (the Saints that were with Him) *And the Beast was taken, and with him the false Prophet that wrought Miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the Mark of the Beast, and them that worshipped his Image. These both were cast alive into the Lake of Fire, burning with Brimstone. And the Remnant were slain with the Sword of*

him that sat upon the white horse, which proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls of the aire were filled with their flesh. And this was the end of those **Persecutors**.

The **Ministers of Unrighteousness**, and false **Apostles**, and **Messengers of Satan**, and his **Ministers** were the **Persecutors** of the **Righteous** like their **Father the Devil**, and walked in his steps; as ye may Read in the **Corinthians**, but their end was according to their Works.

The **Antichrists** and **Wolves** which got the **sheeps Clothing**, who were the **Deceivers**, these were the **Persecutors** and **Warriers** of the **Lambs of Christ**; as we may Read, **Math. 7. 24.**

And you may see the **Jews** that **Killed the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **Persecuted** the Church: Now these **Persecutors** pleased not God, who afterwards overthrew them, **2 Thes. 2.**

Act. 9. 4. And it was said unto **Saul**, *Saul why Persecutest thou me? I am Jesus whom thou Persecutest, it is in vain for thee, &c.* When that **Saul** was going with his **Packet of Letters** (from the high Priest and Scribes) to **Persecute** the **Saints**.

And **Paul** afterwards confessed, that he was a **Persecutor** of the Church, when *as touching the righteousness of the Law, he was blameless*; which **Law** did **Command carnal Weapons**, **Mark** that: and so he thought he had done **God good Service** in **Persecuting** those that were contrary minded: But yet saith he, *through the grace of God I found Mercy, because I did it ignorantly*, **Phil. 3.**

David was often **Persecuted** of his **Enemies** without a Cause, and he said, *They Persecuted the poor and needy.* And he prayed unto the Lord to deliver him from them that **Persecuted** him, and to stop the **Way** of them that **Persecuted** him, **Psal. 35.**

The true **Christians** (who follow **Christ**) cannot **Reville** them that **Persecute** them; according to **Christ's Doctrine**, **Math. 5.** But the **Persecutors** never follow **Christ** in their **Persecution**, for His **Doctrine** is to **pray for them that do Persecute**. And **Christ** told his **Disciples**, *That they should be Persecuted from City to City.* And those **Persecutors** are such as are born after the **flesh**; and are the makers of **Selfs**.

And the **Wisdom of God** saith, *Behold I send you Prophets and Apostles, and some of them they shall Persecute and Kill, that all the*

the Blood that have been shed from the Foundation of the World may be required of this Generation. Of that Persecuting Birth Luk. 11. born of the flesh, that cannot love Enemies.

And Christ saith, *If they Persecute me, they will also Persecute you that keep my Sayings.* And they will not keep your Sayings, that do not keep Christ's, (who saith, *love Enemies.*) John 14. And therefore are we Persecuted, because we keep Christ's Sayings and Commands, who is the Redeemer and Saviour, who saith, *Swear not at all, &c.*

Steven told the Jews when they did Persecute and Stone him to Death, *That they always resisted the holy Ghost, and that their Fathers had been Persecutors of the Prophets.*

And Paul after he was Converted, told the Jews and Heathens, how he had been exceeding Mad against the Christians, and had Persecuted that Way, Christ the Light; And now he was sent to turn People from Darkness to Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God. And how he had Persecuted the Church of God, and thought he did God good service; And was Act. 22. exceeding Envious against them, and Injurious? A Fanatick spirit. Yet afterwards he saith, that he himself was Persecuted but not forsaken, for the Lord was with him; when he exercised himself to keep his Conscience void of offence towards God, and towards man; Then those Persecuted him, and were against him and forsook him, who before were for him; but the Lord did not forsake him, but was with him, 1 Cor. 15.

Now here is the Two Births, Paul was Persecuted when he was Born of the Spirit, but when he was of the Flesh he was a Persecutor. Now they that will live godly in Christ Jesus, must suffer Persecution by the ungodly, who are, and ever were the Persecutors, and unprofitable Talkers, 2 Tim. 3.

And the Apostle saith, he was in Necessities, and in Persecution, and Affliction, and endured Stripes, Hunger and Nakedness: And again he saith, neither Persecution, nor Famine, nor Tribulation, nor Distresse, should separate them from the love of God: And for Christ's sake they were killed all the day long, and were accounted as sheep for the slaughter, and through Christ they were more than Conquerors over all those Persecutors. So he that is born of the Spirit is to suffer Persecution by the Birth born after the flesh: and not again to Persecute. And,

And *Jeremiah* saith, who was Persecuted of the *Jeos*: All their Persecutors overtook them (which God brought the *Heaven* upon them) which were swifter than an *Eagle* from *Heaven*: And this came upon *Jeremiah's* Persecutors, who prayed to the Lord to *Revenge* him of his Persecutors. *Jer. 15.*

And the *Apostle* speaks of some that had been accounted Christians amongst them that were *Dogs*; that after a time turned again and lick up the *Vomit*, (as many do now, and these *Dogs* were greedy and hungry Persecutors, and Devourers, that lick up their own *Vomit*) and will not feed upon the bread that comes down from *heaven*, *Christ Jesus*. And some that went under the Name of Christians; after that they were washed did run into the mire again.

So Consider this ye who are not Heirs of God and Elect before the World began, see if ye be not of the *Dogs* and *Swine* rearing, and rearing, and in the mire, and licking up your own *Vomit*.

And the *Woman*, the true Church, was Persecuted, which brought forth the *Maid Child*. See *Rev. 12.*

And the *First-born*, who is born after the *Flesh*, Persecuted him that was born after the *Spirit*. *Gal. 4.* For he that is born after the *Flesh* is a Persecutor; though he may Professe all the Scriptures, Church-Worship, and Ministry, yet he is a Persecutor.

Queen Mary Persecuted the tender Vines and Budds, and Plants as they sprang up: Whose End and Dayes the Lord shortened: And woful and miserable was the end of many of those *Bishops* and *Bloody Tyrants*, which in her dayes were the greatest Persecutors. As ye may read in *Fox's Monument*.

And also, we warned the *Long-Parliament* of their Persecution, who heard not, nor regarded the Prophets of the Lord; who at the last were turned out as unfit for his use.

We warned *Oliver Protector*, in whose Dominions there was Persecution almost in every place, who would not here and consider as he ought to have done; and so his Days also were shortened.

We warned other *Parliaments* of their Persecution, and to stop and limit Persecutors.

We warned Richard Cromwel of Persecution and Persecutors, to stop and limit them.

We warned the Committee of Safety (so called) of the *Plagues* and *Judgements* of God that were coming upon their heads: and of the blood of the *Innocent* in the Nation that lay shed, by *Persecutors*, in *Goals*, *Prisons*, and *Houses of Correction*; And mens *Lives* and *Estates* were taken from them by men in *Tyranny* and *Persecution*; yet great Talking and Professing of God and Christ with the Lipps, but out of his Life and Doctrine.

Last of all we have warned Charles the King who hath his day, and all his Officers and Magistrates under him, by whom many of the *Innocent* are cast into Goals, lying on straw in Dungeons, some whereof are sick and weak, and some dead, and Wives and Children, and necessary things denyed them: Therefore consider these things for this is the day now of your Tryal.

All you that do Persecute about *Religion*, *Church*, *VVorship*, *Ministry*, *Sacrifice* and *Offerings*, are no more *Respected* of God than *Cain* was, neither hath God any more regard to your *Services* than He had to his.

H. F.

THE END.